



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

PAUL R. LePAGE
GOVERNOR

March 4, 2015

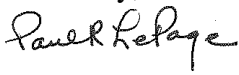
Dear Governor Nikki R. Haley,

Human trafficking is an epidemic that has only recently begun receiving the attention that is necessary and long overdue. It is estimated that close to 100,000 victims are affected yearly in the United States alone. The victims are often forced into a life of servitude, domestic abuse and/or sexual exploitation; and their chances of escaping that life are only minimized by our unwillingness to address the issue publicly and educate our citizens.

As governors, we have the ability to spread awareness, educate the public, and ensure that all available resources are utilized to combat this heinous crime. We have implemented a multipronged approach in the State of Maine by encouraging law enforcement to target the pimps who profit from the victim's misery, the Johns who drive the industry by paying for services, and we've also encouraged service providers to work together to find placement and treatment services for the victims once they've been rescued.

Country music star, Steve Azar, recently wrote and recorded a song which addresses the topic of Human Trafficking called The Sky is Falling. A high school student from Maine was given the opportunity to make the accompanying music video, which is viewable here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8CqUMuwBQc .

I respectfully request you consider posting this video on your social media site(s) to help spread the much needed awareness. I am committed, as I'm sure you are, to doing all within my power to put an end to human trafficking in the great state that I govern. We must be united in our efforts and stand together as one if we're to fight this horrific crime and lend assistance to the victims. Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor